

# PATROL NEWS

November-December 2020

"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"



See cover page 3.

*Photo by Jared Burgess, All That Music Photography. Reprinted with permission.*

# From the Staff ...

Major David A. Flannigan  
Technical Services Bureau



Goodbye, 2020. The memes on social media have been consistent in saying that we won't miss you. You have changed the way we work, meet, worship, and participate in recreation in this country. However, you've also reminded us to be thankful we have a job and to appreciate things like greeting a colleague, co-worker, or neighbor with a friendly handshake and a smile not hidden from a facemask.

These changes have not affected our core mission at the Patrol. We are still providing quality public service to Missourians and others who are within our borders. Each week, the staff receives letters, cards, emails, and notes from citizens and officials who want to offer a word of thanks for something one of our employees did. The acts are something that may seem insignificant to the employee. However, the *manner* in which the employees carried out their duties compels the author to write to us about their experience.

The Patrol is filled with ladies and gentlemen who believe in our core values and to whom dedicating the majority of their adult lives to the service of others is not a sentiment that changes with time. What we do matters, but the way we do it matters just as much, if not more. Although you can have a police agency without one or more of our eight core values, I offer to you that the agency will not have the longevity, overwhelming public support, or the respect that our agency enjoys today.

With all the recent unrest, pandemic management, and the daily struggles that police agencies nationwide face, our 2020 Public Opinion Survey indicates that the Patrol continues to provide quality services to our citizens in an exemplary manner. The respondents rate the Patrol with a combined score in the "good" and "excellent" categories in the following areas:

Overall Performance — 93.9%

Professional appearance, attitude, and demeanor — 94.3%

Overall competence — 94.1%

2020 did not beat us; it did not even change us. It simply challenged us, and once again our employees have met that challenge and risen above to show who we are. Collectively, we have always been a professional and resourceful group of individuals with high character who are committed to responsibly carrying out our duties with integrity and compassion while respecting others. What could have been said in 1931 is still true today.

DA. Flannigan

The official publication of the  
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*Celebrating Over 50 Years Of News*

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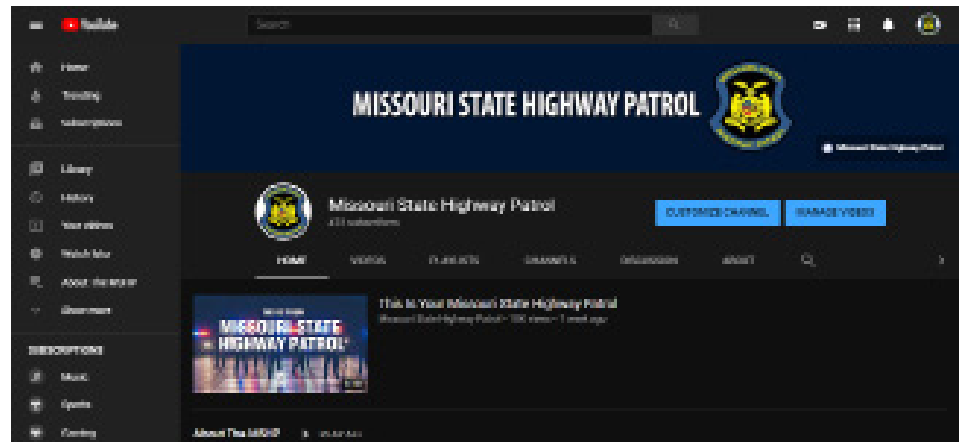
# PATROL NEWS

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"Over 85 YEARS OF SERVICE & PROTECTION"

Volume 55 • Number 3

## Social Media Snapshot



The Patrol's YouTube channel launched November 9 and will host original videos to educate the public about traffic safety, the agency, and the services it provides, and to show the wide variety of career opportunities with the Patrol.

"I invite the public to take a few moments, visit us on YouTube, and view our launch video, 'This is your Missouri State Highway Patrol,'" said Col. Olson. "We plan to have an active YouTube channel, so stay tuned. Of course, you'll still be able to find us on our social media accounts. Most importantly, you'll find us throughout the state exactly where you need us to be."



## Cover

*Congratulations to Tpr. and Mrs. Easton Corcoran! See story on back cover.*



# PERSPECTIVE

## Back In My Day

By Ret. Lt. Jim Ripley

As I read the July-August 2020 issue of *Patrol News*, I was reminded of the Patrol's rich traditions. It was interesting to see the 109th Recruit Class graduation articles and the "Looking Back in Patrol News" segment. As a retiree since 2013, I look back on my career and remember many changes in an organization that may seem slow to change when you are working.

I began my career in 1980. It seems like yesterday. At that time, we still had WWII, Korean War, and many Vietnam veterans on active duty with the department. My first troop commander came on the Patrol in 1946. In those days, it was not unusual for you to hear from an older officer how dif-

ferent and more difficult it was in their day. I remember my FTO telling me I had no opinion until I had at least one star on my sleeve, and plenty of officers thought you needed two stars. If you were a corporal with one star you were "wonder boy." I remember my FTO turning and burning a hole in my Ike jacket with his cigarette the first time I wore it and just having to stand there and take it as he tried to brush off the residue with his hand.

I got to hear how I never had to work the center striper in a car with no air conditioning and no radio. How they would drive with the door open to get more air when tasked with that job. (Thankfully, they discontinued

that duty just before I came on.) How some officers would buy transistor radios and hang them on their spotlight handle, but occasionally need to reposition it to pick up a signal. How some officers, against Patrol regulations, would have local mechanics soup up their patrol cars even though they would already go 140 mph ... at a time when few officers wore their seat belts. How our two-county zone used to be a three-county zone and before the interstate they worked tons of crashes. And, what a great job it was before the 55 mph speed limit and radar guns. What a pain in the neck it was when a court ruling determined that our weight inspectors had no au-

Missouri State Highway Patrol VIOLATION REPORT	
Signature of Officer _____ Troop _____	
Date _____ Time _____ a.m. p.m.	
DRIVER _____	
ADDRESS _____	
Ch. _____ Op. _____ No. _____ State _____	
Make Car _____ Year _____	
Reg. No. _____ Year _____ State _____	
OWNER _____	
ADDRESS _____	
<b>VEHICLE DEFECTS</b>	<b>DRIVER VIOLATIONS</b>
Defective brakes	Careless driving
Defective steering	Failure to dim lights
Improper lights	Failure to obey commands
Improper marking	Failure to observe signs
Improper registration	Failure to signal
Improper safety equipment	Improper parking
No horn	Improper passing
No mirror	Improper turning
Over dimension	License not on person
Overweight	Wrong side of road
(Violations not listed above)	
YOU ARE DIRECTED TO CORRECT THE ABOVE- LISTED DEFECTS AND REFRAIN FROM COMMIT- TING CHECKED VIOLATIONS. SHP 37R2	

OFFICER'S DAILY REPORT MISSOURI HIGHWAY PATROL	
OFFICER _____	SHF-44F OFF. NO. _____
TROOP _____	ZONE _____
AWL _____	HOL _____
VAC _____	SIC _____
MIL _____	DATE _____
REGULAR PATROL 101	
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION 102	
SPEED CHECK 103	
SPOT CHECK 104	
DIRECT TRAFFIC 105	
COURT 106	
CHEM BREATH TEST 107	
TRANSPORT VIOLATOR 108	
TOW VEHICLE 109	
CMVE 110	
MVI 111	
CRIM INV PATROL 120	
CRIM INV OTHER AGENCY 121	
TRAINING RECEIVED 130	
TROOP/ZONE MEETING 131	
OFFICE DUTY 140	
SAFETY EDUCATION 141	
DR LIC EXAM 142	
EXECUTIVE SECURITY 143	
TRAINING DUTY 144	
BACKGROUND/INTERNAL INV 145	
SCHOOL BUS INSPECTION 146	
VIN VERIFICATION 147	
ESCORTS & RELAYS 148	
ADMINISTRATION 150	
ASSIST DEPT OF REV 160	
ASSIST HWY DEPT 161	
ASSIST OTHER ST AGENCIES 162	
ASSIST POLICE DEPTS 163	
ASSIST OTHER 164	
SERVICE TO PUBLIC 170	
CAR & EQUIP REPAIR/TRADE 180	
AIRCRAFT DUTY MISC 190	
OTHER 199	
TOTAL HOURS 200	
SURVEY 299	

ACTIVITIES					
VIOLATIONS	CHARGES		WARNINGS		
	ORIG	ASSIST	ORIG	ASSIST	
DR LIC	50	A	B	C	D
VEH LIC	51	A	B	C	D
PSC	52	A	B	C	D
MOVING	53	A	B	C	D
EQUIPMENT	54	A	B	C	D
DWI	55	A	B		
10% BAC	56	A	B		
OVERSIZE	57	A	B	C	D
OVERWEIGHT	58	A	B	C	D
OTHER MTR VEH MISD	59	A	B	C	D
LEAVING ACC	60	A	B		
OTH MTR VEH FELONY	61	A	B		
MVI	62	A	B	C	D
CRIM ARR (FELONY)	63	A	B		
CRIM ARR (MISD)	64	A	B		
TOTAL	TL	A	B	C	D
ACCIDENTS INVEST	80	A	B		
ARR AFTER ACC	81	A	B		
SPEED DEVICE ARR	82	A	B		
SPOT CHECKS	83	A	B		
CARS RECOVERED	84	A	B		
PUBLIC PROGRAMS	85	A	B		
CRIMINAL INVEST	86	A	B		
PERSONS ARRESTED	933				
PERSONS WARNED	934				
SERVICES RENDERED	935				
ESCORTS & RELAYS	936				
FIRST AID GIVEN	937				
CB CALLS RECEIVED	938				
SURVEY	939				
VALUE RECOV PROP	940				
COMMENTS					

Retired Lt. Jim Ripley provided these examples from "back in his day."



# — Day

*Continued from page 4.*

thority to issue tickets, so whenever that needed to be done an officer had to respond. (The scale house was located just barely inside of the state of Missouri and in no way convenient.) How they worked without scanners to hear other agencies and hated the presence of the CB radio during its heyday. On occasion, you would meet with an older officer from a bordering zone and get to hear even more stories about how fast their cars used to be or how the Patrol had changed since they came on.

Even as early as 1981, I started telling people I came on, “back in ‘80.” Eventually, I was able to add that I came on back when we had numbers on the roof, green templates, a Speed Gun 6, single sheet crash reports, and radios with only AM stations. We still had the radar forms that you completed at the end of each day calculating how many moving and stationary radar tickets you issued. Extenders were a novelty that only sergeants possessed. It seemed like, for a while, we were buying some type of new jacket every year on a clothing allowance that never even covered the cleaning bills.

The uniform seemed to take on several subtle changes in the ‘80s, when we shifted away from the old swivel holsters that looked great, but sometimes remained in the car when you got out because the pin that allowed them to swivel would break. The dump pouches were handy in a combat situation if you needed to reload since there seemed to be no organization to the process of dumping six bullets into your hand. The shift from the swivel holsters changed the look and feasibility of the gun when dressed in the blouse uniform. The regular uniform appearance was altered because the top of the swivel holster was much wider than the safety holsters, where the Sam Browne belt attached. Thus, the angle the belt cut across the officer was much less revealing of the extra poundage officers carried around their midsections. Soon, the dump pouches were replaced with speed loaders that caused the Ike jacket to bunch up over

them. And before long the Ike jacket went the way of other items. The change from the swivel holsters did save the finish on the handles of the revolvers since they were no longer beating against the seat belt fastener constantly.

The radio frequency options were fewer in those days, so a few times a year the Royal Canadian Mounted Police covered all of our radio traffic. It was great to get in the car and hear nonstop RCMP traffic and never hear your own troop traffic. Somehow, we made it through that. I remember on one occasion talking to one of our officers in Caruthersville car-to-car as clear as if we were speaking to each other in person.

I’m sure some things never change. Like, the motorist with a flat tire who has no spare; has a spare that does not fit the car; has a spare with no air; has a spare, but no jack; or has a spare and a jack that works, but they drove so long without a hubcap that the lug nuts need an atomic-powered piston to break loose. The motorist who is 500 miles from home, out of

gas, hasn’t got a dime in their pocket, and they are still 500 miles from their destination. I do remember before fuel injection when someone ran out of gas, you needed to save about a tablespoon of gas to pour into the carburetor to get it to fire the first time.

Near the end of my career, the technological advances seemed to trump every other change. I remember when I was in DDCC my lieutenant asked me why I never responded to emails. My answer was simple, “What’s an email?” That was when we used the old AS400 system. When troopers started to get computers in patrol cars, I had never dreamed that would occur in my lifetime. That created a learning curve as even the most able computer users had varying degrees of skill. Now, we have an entire department of officers who have grown up in the technology age.

All this reflecting shows the Patrol will always need to adapt and change, but the core beliefs remain the same. It’s just these kids today don’t know what it was like back in my day ...

## *You're Invited*

The Missouri State Highway Patrol Awards Ceremony and The MASTERS Banquet will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2021, at the Margaritaville Lake Resort, 494 Tan Tara Estate Drive, Osage Beach, Missouri. The Awards Banquet is open to all MASTERS’ members, MSHP employees, and their guest/spouse. We anticipate the fee to be \$40 per person. The banquet usually starts with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. with dinner immediately following, and then the presentation of awards. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Redel at (573) 526-6159 or [mary.redel@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:mary.redel@mshp.dps.mo.gov).

# *CVO Sprv. Counts & CVO Close Save Driver's Life*

*Submitted by Troop E*

Commercial Vehicle Officer Supervisor II Mark D. Counts and Commercial Vehicle Officer I Chris C. Close (E) accepted the April 2020 DPS Sworn Employees of the Month for their quick thinking and prompt actions. Due to the pandemic, the presentation didn't occur until September 23. Troop E hosted the event.

The recognition is the result of their saving the life of a truck driver who had stopped at the E-3W weigh station in Caruthersville, MO. It was November 9, 2019, and CVO Sprv. Counts had stopped the commercial vehicle owned by DOT Transportation Inc. for a random inspection. He collected the necessary paperwork and told the driver to meet him inside the weigh station. At the same time, CVO Chris C. Close was sitting in the front of the weigh station weighing vehicles.

CVO Sprv. Counts went to the back office to complete an inspection report. While the driver was waiting in the driver's area, he collapsed and gasped for air. CVO Close informed CVO Sprv. Counts, and both responded to the driver's location immediately. They notified Troop E communications of the medical emergency and requested emergency medical services to their location. CVO Sprv. Counts then directed CVO Close to retrieve the automated external defibrillator at the weigh station. The driver had stopped breathing and Sprv. Counts was unable to detect a pulse. The AED advised a shock be administered. After the shock, the two gentlemen began performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation on the driver, who regained consciousness and was instructed to take deep breaths. When the ambulance

arrived, the driver was transported to a hospital in Dyersburg, TN, where he recuperated. This incident led to AED units being placed in all Troop E weigh stations.

"Commercial Vehicle Officers Close's and Counts' actions have had an immeasurable impact on this driver and his family," said Captain Phil Gregory (E). "They are what this family will remember of the Patrol, and they have represented us well."

"We talk about heroic acts, and this was one of those," said Lieutenant Colonel Malik A. Henderson (Q/ASO). "Keep in mind the fact they were knowledgeable enough to recognize the signs and capable of taking the actions necessary to save his life. Their actions were heroic."



*CVO Mark Counts accepts his DPS Employee of the Month award from Lt. Col. Malik Henderson.*



*CVO Chris Close accepts his DPS Employee of the Month award from Lt. Col. Malik Henderson.*



# After A Recruit Graduates: What Now?

## FTO Program Guides, Evaluates New Troopers

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

In an earlier issue, we celebrated the graduation of the 109th Recruit Class. After graduation and a couple weeks off, the new troopers reported to their assignments and their field training officer. This is where the “book smart” meshes with the “street smart” of training. It’s the field training officer’s responsibility to evaluate and guide over a period of at least 85 days to prepare the new trooper to work independently. So, what exactly is expected to happen during the Field Training & Evaluation Program?

Veteran troopers have always trained and influenced the new troopers joining their ranks. It’s inevitable. It became more intentional when a formalized FTO program was created; however, according to the Patrol’s written history, “A new FTO program began in February 1986.” The program established standardized guidelines for the day-to-day evaluation of probationary troopers. Then and now, the recently graduated trooper works under the direct supervision of an authorized field training officer and a zone supervisor.

The Patrol’s FTO program includes at least five progressive phases, and each step requires time and knowledge performance.

### Phase I — Observation/ Familiarization

This phase is at least five working days, during which the probationary member will ride with and observe the FTO. Unless it’s an emergency situation, the new trooper does not initiate any enforcement activity. The probationary trooper also learns the operations of troop headquarters during this time.

### Phase II — Progressive Performance

For at least 50 working days, the probationary trooper gradually takes

*Tpr. Tanner Wallace  
(A) works under the  
supervision of his FTO,  
Cpl. Bryan Hamerle (A).*



on more responsibility. This phase begins with simple tasks and builds toward more complex activities. The probationary trooper handles all the driving during this phase. Also during this phase, the zone sergeant rides with and evaluates the probationary trooper several times.

### Phase III — Shadow Time

For at least 10 working days, the FTO rides with the probationary member to observe and evaluate their performance. The FTO will wear plainclothes while the probationary member is in uniform. The FTO’s evaluations determine the probationary member’s ability to advance into phase four. Although the FTO’s role is to observe, (s)he will intervene whenever required to maintain officer safety, protect the welfare of the public, or reduce civil liability of the officers or the Patrol.

### Phase IV — Integrated Schedule

This phase consists of 20 working days and is divided into three segments. The segments are designed in a way that best suits the zone. The probationary trooper will work alone for at least seven days during this time



and spend a minimum of five days working with the FTO. Otherwise, the probationary trooper rotates through the troop’s commercial vehicle enforcement unit, motor vehicle inspection unit, driver examination unit, communications and desk operations, the troop property control, and observes operations at a gaming facility (if one is located within the troop area). The new trooper also spends three days riding with other members who are not part of their FTO program.

### Phase V — Working Independently

The remainder of the time in the FTO program consists of solo performance by the probationary member. The zone supervisor assumes direct supervision of the new trooper and continues monthly evaluation reports.

The coaching—and in many cases, mentoring—that occurs during the FTO program is an integral part of a new trooper’s adjustment from classroom to community. The pairing of a seasoned officer with new trooper is determined according to which zone they are assigned. The zone sergeant uses the Patrol’s FTO requirements to make a recommendation to the troop’s command staff, who then approves the assignment.

“As a zone sergeant, I chose FTOs based on what officer was well round-

*Continued on the next page.*



## — Graduates

Continued from page 7.

ed, displayed our core values, and who I thought could benefit from training someone, as much as the new trooper would benefit from the FTO,” said Lt. Gara N. Howard (Q/RDD).

“The Field Training and Evaluation Program is an essential step in the lengthy process of molding a recruit into a fully trained and capable trooper,” said Lt. John W. Dick (Q/FOB). “Ideally, as they progress through the program, the new trooper will eventually require increasingly less guidance. The FTO will gradually become an observer, ready to step in and help their trainee, if needed. Both the probationary trooper and the FTO typically learn a lot through this process. Each shift is memorialized in a lengthy evaluation, often criticizing the new officer’s mistakes in great detail. The FTO is then subjected to similar criticism as each report is closely scrutinized at multiple levels. The months spent working closely together tend to create lasting memories for the FTO and their trainee. No matter where we end up after our time in the FTEP, we are left with many stories to share at meal breaks, and (it is hoped) some sage advice to call upon someday when we encounter a difficult situation in the field.”

“If service is  
below you,  
leadership is  
beyond you.”

— Pastor Jerome Gay Jr.

## FTO Recollections

*“My FTO is currently my corporal, Cpl. John Harrison (A). During my FTO process, we were involved in a critical incident where he was dragged down the road, several pursuits, and in one instance, a guy was grabbing for a deputy’s gun when John and I showed up on scene. We were able to take control of him without lethal force, which saved a life and de-escalated the incident. Afterward and several times since, we’ve spoken about a trooper’s split-second decision-making process while performing their job. Being able to read someone’s body language over what they are saying is pertinent to the decision-making process we employ every day. That is something my FTO taught me that I use every day ... reading people’s body language. It’s paramount to officer safety. If you can get that down, you are one step ahead. In this profession, we have to play by a lot of rules and the bad guys play by no rules. Any time you can be one step ahead it’s a game changer. I am truly blessed God placed me in Troop A, Zone 2. He could not have chosen a better FTO to train me, or a better zone for me to work. Here in Zone 2 I follow some of the best leaders a road trooper could ask for. They are the reason why I was successful in the field training process, and why I continue to be successful on the road by myself.” —Trooper Ethan R. Mulkey (A)*

*“Lt. Jon C. Pruiett (E) was my corporal and served as my FTO. He was very observant and taught me to be detail-oriented. After a traffic stop, he would ask me the last four digits of a VIN or what radio station was playing or something that seemed small at the time. I implemented that approach to everything I do. The details matter.” — Captain Ben C. Jones (RCOD)*

*“My FTO was Major D. Tony Flannigan (Q/TSB), and I was a young, naïve, but very eager trooper. One particular experience on the first day I was driving (day six) was a car vs. bicycle crash. I was excited to be driving “code” to work my first crash, oblivious to what I was about to see. We arrived on scene, and he quickly realized we were in the front yard of a local deputy and the child struck was his seven-year-old granddaughter. I followed my FTO’s instructions to get my pocket mask and we proceeded to perform CPR and comfort measures to the little girl until the ambulance arrived on scene. They called for ARCH helicopter, and as he and I were driving to the landing zone to shut down Highway 61 he said, ‘I hope you feel privileged,’ to which I replied, ‘Why?’ (I was very naïve to the seriousness of this situation.)*

*He said, ‘You just witnessed the last few moments of that little girl’s life.’ I was shocked, because in my mind we were there to work the crash and help the little girl get to the hospital. I had no idea the extent of her injuries and that she wouldn’t survive. That was a pivotal point in my career, when I quickly learned we can’t always fix things and save people. Sometimes we are there to provide comfort to victims and families, because that is all we can do in certain situations, and it’s an honor and privilege to provide that in those moments.” — Lieutenant Julie A. Scerine (C).*

# Home Sweet Home

## Aircraft Division Moves Back Into Hangar

**By Sgt. Jeff Noack (Q/AD)**

In May 2020, work began at the Aircraft Division hangar to repair the damage caused by the 2019 flood. The hangar floor was prepared for a new epoxy coating, and new lighting and a closed-foam wall insulation was installed. A storage area, to be used for maintenance support tools, was re-structured. Last, floor-based shelving was elevated to protect the equipment from future flood waters. These changes are designed to provide greater security and flexibility for valuable tools and equipment during the next flood event at the airport.

The damage from flood waters was extensive in the office areas of the building, also. On the lower area, the carpeting, drywall, insulation, wooden framing, and suspended ceilings were removed and replaced with steel framing and other flood resistant materials. In addition to other floor plan changes, a safe room was created on the first floor to be used during severe weather or other emergencies. The available space on the lower level was maximized for storage with the installation of wider doors to simplify the loading and unloading of support equipment during a flood evacuation. Energy saving materials were installed throughout the hangar area, replacing those damaged or weakened by flood waters.

Administrative offices for Aircraft Division personnel, previously located on the lower level, were re-located to the second floor, as required by floodplain management regulation and building codes. Modifications were made to heating and air-conditioning structures, electrical, lighting, flooring, and staircases, also in compliance with floodplain codes. Proximity card readers were installed at building entrances, to provide greater security. The original entry doors, damaged by

flood waters, were replaced, and the exterior metal siding was repaired and received a new coat of paint.

On October 7, 2020, Aircraft Division personnel moved office furniture and equipment into the new office space. Patrol aircraft also were moved back into the hangar. Flood resistant materials used during this 2020 hangar flood remediation project, by design,

can be easily cleaned and repaired. These construction materials will decrease the time required for recovery and reduce the cleanup cost, compared to traditional materials. Most importantly, during the next flood event, the disruption to Aircraft Division flight operations and the displacement of equipment and personnel will be significantly reduced.



*Workers complete the epoxy floor for the aircraft hangar on September 3, 2020.*



*On May 12, 2020, workers completed the demolition phase.*



*The new waiting area and conference room includes an exposed concrete floor and raised utilities.*



*This photo shows the steel framing, safe room location, and exposed ceiling on July 16, 2020.*



# MEMORIAL HONORS TROOP E'S FALLEN HEROES

By Lt. C. Mitch Heath (E)

An idea emerged and took shape beginning in 2018. It was time to honor the officers who were assigned to Troop E when they gave their lives serving the state of Missouri. Since this memorial honored Troop E's fallen officers, it was a Troop E project. Conversations among Troop E employees and a survey helped move idea to monument.

After selecting the outline of Missouri as the basic design for the memorial, it was time to contact monument companies in the Troop E area for advice and pricing (September 2018). As a result, Whitener Monuments in Kennett, MO, was selected. The owner, Glen Whitener, has been a longtime friend of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He went above and beyond in helping with the monument. He met with officers on numerous occasions and provided a variety of ideas on how to improve the memorial.

A survey provided Troop E employees the opportunity to weigh in on whether to use black or Missouri red granite. Overwhelmingly, the answer was black granite. Once the color was chosen, Mr. Whitener did extensive research to find the highest quality granite for the best price, including the cost of shipping from India to his facility in Kennett, MO.

It was time to generate the money to pay for the memorial. The Cape Girardeau chapter of S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Lawmen Together) agreed to serve as a repository of the funds raised. The SALT board members voted unanimously in favor of helping with the project. They also agreed to provide a letter to everyone who made a monetary donation for tax purposes.

In January 2019, the group began selling \$10 raffle tickets for a chance to win a Ruger Precision .308-caliber Ruger Precision rifle. Tickets were sold until April 10, 2019, with the drawing taking place on April 19, 2019. (Retired Sergeant Dave Markham sold the largest number of raffle tickets.) At the same time, donations were accepted. Many thanks to Troop E's current and retired employees for working hard to obtain donations and sell raffle tickets. (Ret. Sgt. Markham also acquired the largest number of donations.)

As the project progressed, additional details were put in place. A poem for the bottom of the memorial was chosen. It was decided the 13 counties of Troop E would be identified in the middle of the memorial. When funds allowed, a bronze medallion was added to the front and back of the memorial. The idea to pur-

chase benches as part of the memorial space was presented, accepted, and acted upon. Once the style was chosen and words determined, the benches were ordered.

When it was decided the memorial should be placed in front of the Troop E flagpole, the scope of the project increased. The flagpole at Troop E Headquarters was only 30 feet tall and didn't properly display three flags at half-staff. Fleet and Facilities Division came through for us and installed a new, 40-foot tall flagpole. The new flagpole was installed farther back, allowing more room for the memorial. Included in this part of the project was new concrete. Our thanks to the local MoDOT employees who agreed with-





# — HEROES

*Continued from page 10.*

out hesitation to remove the old concrete. The new concrete was poured in the shape of our shoulder patch with the help of a local concrete contractor, who installed the forms. Prior to the concrete being poured, LED lighting

was installed around the outer edge of the patch and a new LED light was installed for the flagpole.

On June 1, 2020, the memorial and four benches were installed. Troop E staff would like to take this opportunity to thank every current and prior employee of Troop E for their assistance in this project. There were

so many citizens, businesses, and civic organizations who provided financial donations and/or purchased raffle tickets! Our sincerest appreciation to all of them. We would like to thank the Cape Girardeau chapter of SALT for partnering with us, which allowed us to move forward with this project.

## DPS Honors Cpls. Bartel, Woods, & Reed Investigators Provide Voice For Deceased Baby

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

Criminal investigator. These are the troopers who are exceptional at solving puzzles ... the kind of puzzle that ends up with someone being charged with a crime. The Patrol's investigative branch goes by the moniker of Drug and Crime Control Division. That's quite a big umbrella. Yet, every case is important. Every case is handled with professionalism and compassion. In each case, the victim gains a voice through the diligence of a criminal investigator.

On August 2, 2020, the Department of Public Safety named three criminal investigators as its Sworn Employees of the Month for August 2020. Corporals Eric Bartel, Andrew Woods, and Dustin Reed (Q/DDCC) accepted their awards at Troop C Headquarters.

The investigation that led to the recognition began February 12, 2020, and involved a deceased infant, who had been delivered under suspicious

circumstances. The mother of the baby had not told anyone she was pregnant, did not seek prenatal care, and attempted to deliver the baby on her own. Chief Casey Doyle of the Truesdale, MO, Police Department contacted the Division of Drug and Crime Control and requested assistance with the investigation.

Cpls. Bartel, Woods, and Reed interviewed emergency medical services personnel, hospital medical personnel, and the mother's friends and family. The autopsy results raised concerns and questions, as well. During a third interview with the mother, her statements showed she did not request medical aid when she had problems delivering the baby. The next morning, the mother called a friend to transport her other children to school before calling 911 for medical assistance.

Corporals Bartel, Woods, Reed, and Chief Doyle worked tirelessly to

see that a baby, who could not speak for itself, received justice after its mother was more concerned with concealing her pregnancy than preserving an innocent life.

"I appreciate the effort put forth by Corporals Bartel, Reed, and Woods, to ensure this mother was brought to justice for her actions," said Captain Paul D. Kerperin (Q/DDCC). "They had to work to overcome several obstacles to ensure this case received the attention it truly deserved."

"Every investigation provides unique hurdles, and this case was no different," said Cpl. Bartel. "Thankfully, the members of the Troop C Criminal Investigation Unit work well as a cohesive team and have been able to bring many cases to a successful conclusion. This case was painful to witness, and while I know that the other MSHP criminal investigation units across the state would have investigated with the same diligence and care, we are humbled and appreciative that we were singled out for our efforts."

Congratulations, Cpl. Bartel, Cpl. Woods, and Cpl. Reed on being named DPS Employees of the Month for August 2020!



*(l to r) Major Sarah Eberhard (Q/CIB), DPS Director Sandra Karsten, Cpl. Andrew Woods (Q/DDCC), Cpl. Eric Bartel (Q/DDCC), Cpl. Dustin Reed (Q/DDCC), Capt. Paul Kerperin (Q/DDCC), Lt. Donnie Crump (Q/DDCC), and Col. Eric Olson (Q/SO) are*

# AAMVA Recognizes Cpl. Bradley

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

The case crossed not only county lines, but state lines. Multiple jurisdictions connected hundreds of dots and discovered a large-scale network of auto thieves in several states. Simply explained, vehicles from high-end dealerships were stolen, retagged, and sold. However, there was nothing simple about it.

The suspects in the case stole vehicles from high-end dealerships. Then, they used their knowledge of titling procedures in Missouri, and later Kansas, to obtain title documents that passed as legitimate. Essentially, the suspects stole the identity from legitimate vehicles and used the stolen vehicle identification numbers to retag the stolen vehicles, creating a clone of the original vehicle. They were using access to DOR records to help identify potential VINs to clone. The vehicles were then offered for sale on various Internet auction sites and sold. Quite the racket.

At least, it was until Corporal C. Nate Bradley (A) connected information from the Kansas City (MO) Police Department's stolen auto recoveries to the Missouri Department of Revenue and his knowledge of stolen Escalades and Denalis in Iowa and Nebraska. He followed up with search warrants,

which led him and the KCPD to recover a Denali and a retagged Dodge Durango. Investigators outlined and documented the scheme to discover the group had committed burglaries in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Nearly 100 burglaries were committed and over 200 vehicles were stolen, representing over \$4 million in losses. Investigators are still recovering the retagged, stolen vehicles.

Recently, one of the stolen vehicles was recovered at a tow lot in Gladstone, MO. It was only discovered after the tow company sent certified letters out, informing the owner and lienholder their vehicle had been towed. The owner called the tow company and said, "My car has never been towed in Gladstone, MO. I live in western Kansas!"

This investigation has continued to involve considerable surveillance, coordination of reporting, video, and travel data analysis, and constant communication. Cpl. Bradley has ensured these efforts continue to resolve all associated cases, as well as copycat cases using the original scheme.

The discoveries made during this investigation identified the significant loopholes within the titling process in Missouri and Kansas. Both states' departments of revenue worked on new

initiatives which ensured the integrity of the titling processes.

The enormity of this investigation showcased the collaborative efforts from numerous local, county, and state law enforcement agencies. Hundreds of hours of investigations and analytical work went into the investigation. The case was presented to the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Missouri. The investigation led to the arrest and conviction of two men, Tim Hood and Josh Walker, in federal court.

Hood was one of the leaders of the organized group and used his computer to create fake identification labels. He also traveled across state lines frequently and obtained Kansas titles. Walker conducted many of the burglaries and coordinated the getaway drivers' escape from the burglary sites. The main participating agencies were the Missouri Department of Revenue, Kansas Department of Revenue, Kansas Highway Patrol, Missouri State Highway Patrol, and Kansas City, Missouri Police Department. National Insurance Crime Bureau Special Agent Brad Greiner (now retired) was instrumental as well.

Cpl. Bradley's work did not go unnoticed. The AAMVA selected him as the recipient of their 2020 Fraud Prevention and Detection Award. His work with multiple agencies across the state continues to yield results. He often answers calls from agencies inside and outside of Missouri requesting his help with their auto theft cases. He also makes himself available to provide a presentation teaching other investigators and sharing information about the resources available when building a case.

"Nate loves looking for stolen cars as much as me," said Amy Warkentin, property crimes analyst for Overland Park (KS) Police Department. "He has such an incredible wealth of knowl-



*Cpl. Nate Bradley (A) provided his auto theft presentation to Troop H officers on October 13, 2020.*

*Continued on the next page.*



# — AAMVA

Continued from page 12.

edge when it comes to vehicles. Nate is always one step ahead of them (though he will say he isn't) regarding their MOs, and seems to find the newest criminal trend before anyone else in the metro. He is dedicated to our small group of Missouri and Kansas auto theft investigators and will take time out of his day, no matter what, to help. I appreciate our working relationship and am amazed by Nate's work ethic. What can I say? I want to be like Nate when I grow up!"

Cpl. Bradley is quick to give credit to all the other agencies and investigators who worked on the case.

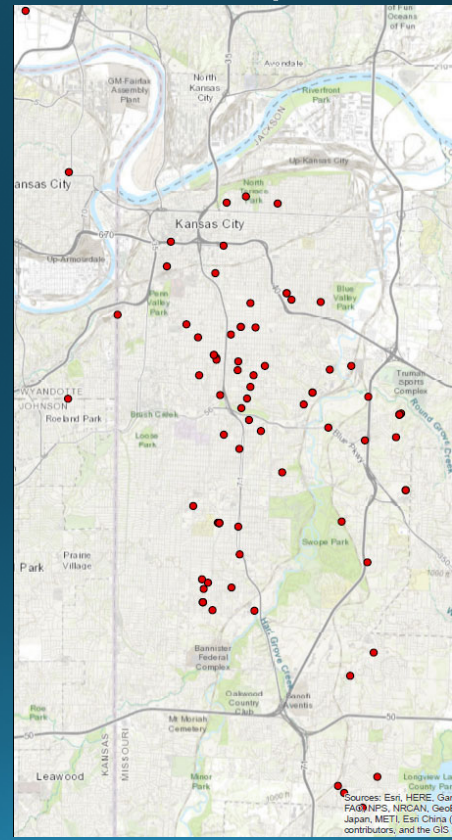
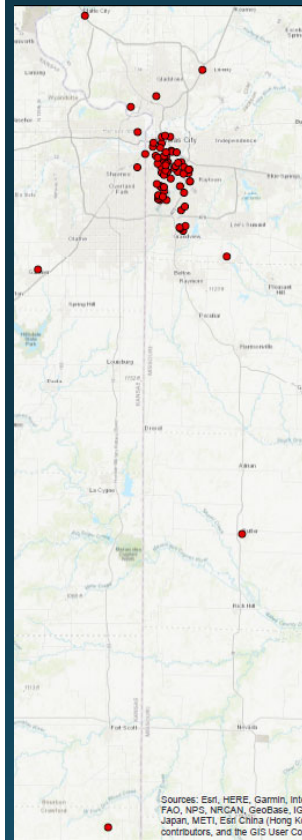
"This case was put together by good detectives doing good police work across the Midwest," said Cpl. Bradley. "In Minneapolis, they had collected evidence, obtained surveillance, and developed suspects, but didn't know who they were. The suspects were from KC. It was the same across the Midwest. All we did was gather their work and connect the dots with the help of some outstanding crime analysts in the Kansas City Police Department and Overland Park (KS) Police Department. It was a huge collaborative effort. Everybody brought their skills to the table and we worked together as a team."

Cpl. Bradley explained that this type of investigation is about networking, meeting new people, and finding out what they know and how they do things. He said listening was one of the most important components of "connecting the dots."

"My grandpa was a WWII doctor and told me, 'If you listen, the patient will tell you what's wrong.' I try to apply his philosophy in my cases."

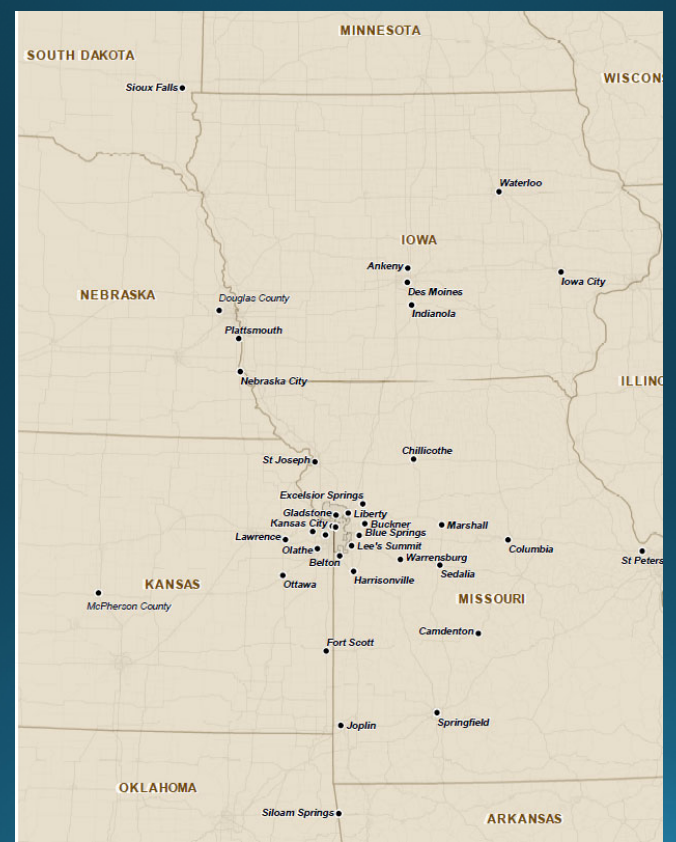
Congratulations, Cpl. Bradley, on a successful investigation and receiving the AAMVA's 2020 Fraud Prevention and Detection Award!

## RECOVERED AUTO LOCATIONS (2015-2019)



*These two maps indicate locations where vehicles were stolen and recovered.*

## DEALERSHIP LOCATIONS





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# ***Congratulations On Your Retirement!***

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**Eric S. LeCuru**

Property Inventory  
Controller  
Q/BPD

*Retired September 1, 2020  
37 years, six months  
of dedicated service.*



**Patricia D.  
Wagganer**

DE III  
Troop D

*Retired September 1, 2020.  
Five years, 11 months  
of dedicated service.*



**Vernon L.  
Whitlock**  
Trooper  
Q/GD

*Retired September 1, 2020.  
32 years, two months  
of dedicated service.*



**Marilyn M. Clark**  
CDL Examiner  
Troop E

*Retired October 1, 2020.  
22 years, four months  
of dedicated service.*



**Sally L. Enderle**  
DE III  
Troop C

*Retired October 1, 2020.  
18 years, five months  
of dedicated service.*



**Louis G.  
McReynolds**  
CVO Sprv. II  
Troop D

*Retired October 1, 2020.  
15 years, one month  
of dedicated service.*



**Kenny J. Schulte**  
Sergeant  
Q/DDCC

*Retired October 1, 2020.  
26 years, three months  
of dedicated service.*



**Reita D. Cyrus**  
Clerk Typist III  
Troop D

*Retired November 1, 2020.  
25 years, nine months  
of dedicated service.*



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# *Congratulations On Your Retirement!*

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## **John M. Enderle**

Captain  
Troop D

*Retired November 1, 2020.  
30 years, 10 months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Lalah M. Gregory**

Comm. Oper. III  
Troop G

*Retired November 1, 2020.  
18 years, 11 months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Ron J. Miesner**

Lieutenant  
Troop C

*Retired November 1, 2020.  
30 years, four months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Bob L. Polen**

MVI Sprv.  
Troop A

*Retired November 1, 2020.  
17 years, two months  
of dedicated service.*



## **Chris D. Ramsey**

Comm. Oper. III  
Troop F

*Retired November 1, 2020.  
20 years, six months  
of dedicated service.*





# There Is Always Next Year

*By Sgt. Morgan B. Patterson (F)*

On Saturday, August 29, 2020, troopers and their families came from around the state to Jefferson City, MO, for fellowship and to play in the annual Patrol softball tournament. Troops A, C, F (two teams), General Headquarters (two teams), and the Gaming Division participated. All teams were formed with one intention ... Beat Troop A. The most determined team was Troop F. Troop F finished second for the last three years, making them the runners up to Troop A. Could this be their year?

The tournament organizers originally planned for the event to take place on May 16, in Jefferson City, MO. However, COVID-19 had other plans. Luckily, we could reschedule the tournament to August 29. Keeping up with tradition, rain played a role. After about an hour of rainfall, Troop F and the Parks and Recreation Ball Crew worked diligently, raking and spreading diamond dry on the two fields. Troop A sat under a pavilion, where they stayed dry, rested, and hydrated.

Once play resumed, teams picked up where they left off. The tournament was bracketed as a double elimination set up, guaranteeing each team two games. After two quick losses, a GHQ team led by Major Mike A. Turner (Q/SSB) was eliminated from the tournament! Following them was the other GHQ team led by Captain Kevin C. Kelley (Q/CVE), who was eliminated by the Gaming Division. One of the Troop F teams, led by

Trooper Tim C. Fick, was next up to be eliminated. They were defeated by the Gaming Division team in a hard-fought battle. The Gaming Division team's run ended when they faced off with the Troop C team.

This brings us to the first meeting of Troop F and Troop A, which was also the first meeting since last year's controversial call. That call led to Troop A's defeating Troop F in 2019. I won't go into details, but Troop F had not forgotten! Troop F, in normal fashion, jumped out to an early lead of 4-2. However, the loaded/rolled bats of Troop A brought them back. Troop A's team defeated Troop F's team 5-4. This loss knocked Troop F down to the loser's bracket to play Troop C. In that game, Troop F bounced back and defeated Troop C. Thus, Troop C finished the tournament in 3rd place for

the third year in a row.

The stage was set again for a repeat of the last three years: Troop F and Troop A in the championship game. Troop F got out to an early lead of 2-0. It was all fun and games until, once again, Troop A pulled out their secret, loaded bat and battled back to a 3-2 win. This gave Troop A the title of tournament champions for the fourth straight year.

Many thanks to those who helped organize the tournament. For those who participated and the families who supported them, thank you for traveling to Jefferson City. It was a fun-filled day of softball and fellowship. We donated all the profits from our tournament T-shirt sales to Special Olympics.

In preparation for next year's tournament, organizers are hoping to host the event somewhere in Troop F or A. All troops and divisions are encour-



*Congratulations to the Troop A softball team! Pictured l to r, standing: Sgt. Adam Dillon, Tpr. Ben Owens, Sgt. Casey Utterback, Ret. Sgt. Dale Knox, Capt. Scott Shippers, and Tpr. Zach Thomas; kneeling: Cpl. Nick Perez, Lt. Barry Kumpf, Cpl. Matt Yoder, Cpl. Emilio Villanueva, and Cpl. Josh Owens.*



# Troop F SWAT Saves Victim

## *Submitted by Troop F*

At 3:53 a.m. on September 5, 2020, the Miller County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in Rocky Mount, MO, after a 9-1-1 call regarding a possible disturbance situation. Initially, it was reported that an adult male inside the home was armed and threatening to kill a female.

When deputies entered the home to search for possible victims, they encountered a 57-year-old male armed with a gun who verbally threatened to shoot them. As deputies sought cover, they located a 71-year-old unconscious female and carried her outside the home. A second adult female escaped through a garage. EMS transported both victims to the hospital. Further investigation revealed an 82-year-old male remained in the home with the suspect. No shots were fired by the suspect or deputies during this encounter.

Additional officers from the Miller County Sheriff's Office, Lake Ozark Police Department, and Missouri State Highway Patrol responded to assist and established a perimeter by land and water. Troop F SWAT officers and crisis intervention negotiators also responded.

In the early morning hours, negotiators established phone contact with the suspect and attempted to peacefully resolve the situation over a period of several hours. At about 12:20 p.m., negotiators heard indications the elderly male victim was being assaulted inside the home. Troop F SWAT used a diversionary device and forced their way into the home and to an upstairs bedroom. Entry team members reported seeing a gun laying on the bed as the suspect assaulted the victim using a modified choke hold. Immediately, several entry team members responded and used physical force to take the suspect into custody and protect the hostage. The victim was transported to Lake Regional Hospital with nonlife-threatening injuries. Law enforcement officers located several other guns in the home.

*(right) Left Group: Lt. Brandon White, Lt. Kevin Hunter, Sgt. Scott Ballard, and Sgt. Matt Halford discuss ongoing strategy. Right Group: Sgt. Matt Cody, Tpr. Max Lawson, and Tpr. Mike Malone monitor negotiations.*



*(left) Negotiations: Sgt. Matt Halford monitors the conversation as Tpr. Brian Geier (in truck) negotiates with the suspect. Sgt. Scott Ballard and Lt. Brandon White listen in.*

The 71-year-old female initially found unconscious in the home and taken to the hospital was pronounced deceased at 4:59 a.m. The suspect was charged in Miller County Circuit Court with first degree murder, first degree domestic assault, kidnapping, burglary, and unlawful use of a weapon. He was taken to Miller County Jail on \$500,000 bond. All victims in this incident were related and the suspect was an acquaintance to the family.



*Troop F SWAT Entry Team stands ready to make entry into the home.*



# Troop G Sweeps DPS Awards

*By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)*

In a combination Webex/on location event, the Patrol celebrated with Troop G's Sergeant Dale B. Pounds and Temporary Building & Grounds Linda S. Benyo as they were each honored by the Department of Public Safety. Here's the scoop:

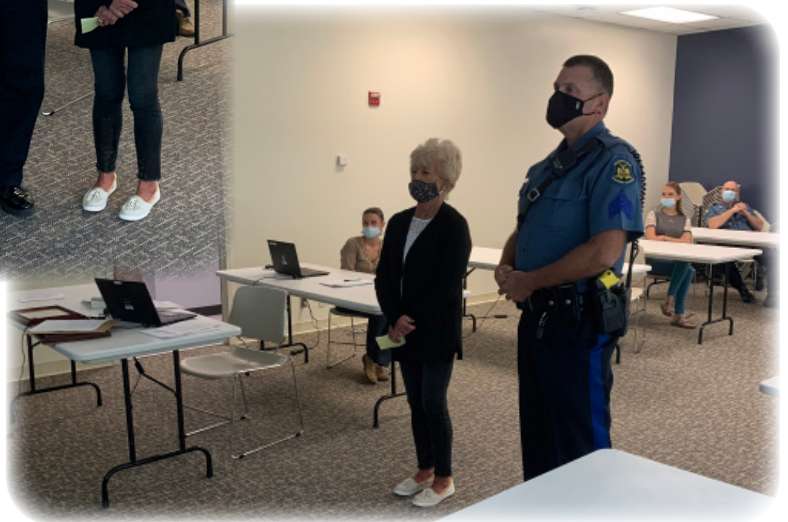
Temp. Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Benyo was named DPS September 2020 Non-Sworn Employee of the Month for her dedication and resourcefulness during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. When Governor Mike Parson issued a social distance directive indicating only essential government employees would work in the physical work spaces, Temp. Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Benyo accepted the responsibility and challenge of sanitizing Troop G Headquarters to protect her co-workers. She devised a sanitization schedule that kept her working seven days a week for the next 34 days, constantly cleaning and sanitizing essential areas of the troop. During her efforts, in the height of the pandemic, not one Troop G employee contracted the COVID-19 virus or any other illness.

Sergeant Pounds was named September 2020 DPS Sworn Employee of the Month for his attention to detail and initiative while patrolling Missouri roadways. On January 15, 2020, during a traffic stop in Texas County, MO, the driver advised Sgt. Pounds of his status as a registered sex offender. He also told the sergeant his insurance card was on his phone and handed his cell phone to Sgt. Pounds, who confirmed the driver's insurance was valid. When Sgt. Pounds handed the phone back to the driver, the man touched the screen and revealed what appeared to be nude photo of an underage female. In the conversation that followed, the driver granted consent for the phone to be searched and assisted with the navigation of his phone. Sgt. Pounds observed additional pho-



*Capt. Bruce Fiske (G) presents the DPS Non-Sworn Employee of the Month plaque to Temp. Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Linda Benyo (G).*

*Temp. Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Linda Benyo (G) and Sgt. Dale Pounds (G) listen during the Webex gathering honoring them as DPS employees of the month.*



tos of what appeared to be underage children and requested permission for the Highway Patrol's Division of Drug and Crime Control to review the phone's contents. The subject agreed. A forensic examination of the cell phone revealed 1,862 images of child pornography. The case has since been turned over to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Springfield, MO, where federal charges will be filed against the subject.

Captain Bruce D. Fiske (G) welcomed everyone to the presentation September 22, 2020.

Major Greg K. Smith (Q/FOB) read the narrative from each nomination and congratulated both Temp. Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Benyo and Sgt. Pounds on being chosen as employees of the month. "It's wonderful to have

both of you recognized at the troop today for your exceptional work," said Major Smith.

Colonel Eric T. Olson attended the gathering from Jefferson City. "I regret we couldn't do this in person, and I look forward to seeing you in the future," he said. "I appreciate DPS recognizing you both for your great work. Sgt. Pounds, I appreciate your diligence and effort in looking beyond the stop. We train troopers to do that, but it's easy to relax and get away from that process. I appreciate your diligence and effort. That's what it takes to discover these types of crimes."

"Linda, the fact you worked 34 days — I recognize and admire that type of commitment," said Col. Olson. "What we are living with these days takes that kind of commitment, and



## Awards

Continued from page 18.

I appreciate very much what went into making Troop G safer during the height of the pandemic. I am pleased to recognize both of you and what you do for the agency."

DPS Deputy Director Tracy McGinnis officially "presented" the awards, while Capt. Fiske physically handed each employee their plaque. She congratulated each of them, expressing her appreciation of their work and the examples they set.

"Dale is an excellent zone sergeant," said Capt. Fiske as he presented the certificate to Sgt. Pounds. "He is proactive. This traffic stop is just one example of the work he does every day. Congratulations, Dale."

Capt. Fiske then presented Linda's certificate saying she is, "one of the most dedicated people you'll ever meet. She is dedicated to her family and her extended family at the Patrol. She strives every day to make the troop a safe place for everyone."

Both Sgt. Pounds and Temp. Bldg. & Maint. Benyo expressed their appreciation for their respective awards.

After the presentation, Major Smith thanked everyone for attending the unusual presentation and told the award recipients, "We are very proud of both of you and hope to see you in person when this virus calms down."

Congratulations to Linda and Sgt. Pounds for "sweeping" the September 2020 DPS Employee of the Month awards!

"You have power over your mind – not outside events. Realize this, and you will find strength."

— Marcus Aurelius, Stoic philosopher/Roman emperor

# Governor Presents Missouri Medals

By Public Info. Spec. III Cheryl D. Cobb (Q/PIED)

A combination of in-person audience and Facebook live joined Governor Mike Parson and the Department of Public Safety to recognize 11 public safety officials and six civilians for their extraordinary efforts. DPS Director Sandra K. Karsten served as emcee at the event, which was held in the Academy gymnasium.

Gov. Parson expressed his respect for "the men and women out there doing the job without hesitation."

"Missourians support you and want to do what we can to keep you safe and give you the tools you need," said Gov. Parson. "Congratulations. Every day, the media will ask, 'Are you concerned? Are you worried?' There isn't a day I don't go to the office that I'm not concerned about something. You are on the front lines. Stay the course. Do what you took that oath to do. Don't let anything else get in your head. Just go out and do what you need to do."

Three Patrol employees accepted the Missouri Medal of Valor.

Sergeant Shawn M. Dougherty (G) and Corporal Jason C. Kuessner (Q/DDCC) rescued a deputy who was shot when officers attempted to serve a warrant. Sgt. Dougherty accepted his award at the ceremony. (He is the first person to receive the Missouri Medal of Valor twice.) Cpl. Kuessner was unable to attend the presentation and accepted his later.

Trooper Keaton Ebersold and Rock Port Police Chief Shannon Sherwood were honored for their actions in de-escalating a hostage situation. A woman held a child hostage in a tractor trailer with a flare gun. The chief talked to the woman and distracted her, which led to her lowering the gun. Tpr. Ebersold lunged and grabbed the gun so it could not fire, then disarmed her. The officers arrested the woman and rescued the child.

"I look forward to this day each year," said Director Karsten. "The group recognized today represent the best of us. We are a better state because of each of them. Congratulations to all the honorees. Your stories serve as encouragement to all of us."

(Editor's note: To read about all of the DPS award winners, visit <https://governor.mo.gov/press-releases/archive/governor-parson-awards-missouri-public-safety-medals-first-responders-and-0>.)

Tpr. Keaton Ebersold, Gov. Mike Parson, Sgt. Shawn Dougherty, and Col. Eric Olson are pictured.



# Looking Back

## ... in the Patrol News

### 50 years ago ...

*November 1970* — This issue highlighted the National Governors' Conference detail. The conference took place at the Lake of the Ozarks in August 1970. Elsewhere in the issue, a photo showed Missouri's Lieutenant Governor William Morris using a patrol car's public address system to speak to the thousands of persons gathered outside the Capitol when Apollo 11 Astronauts Armstrong, Aldrin, and Collins visited Jefferson City in July 1970.

### 40 years ago ...

*December 1980* — Trooper E.W. Mann stopped a gentleman for excessive speed on U.S. Highway 63 north of Cabool, MO. When the violator opened the door to his car, a cocker spaniel jumped out from behind him and began running around the car. Tpr. Mann leaned against the hood of his car as the violator chased the dog, re-

trieved it, and put him back in the car. The violator then approached the trooper asking him to issue the ticket so he could search for a \$2,000 ring made especially for him by Tiffany's. The trooper helped him search for the ring, but no ring was found. Tpr. Mann decided not to issue a ticket, but did promise to return and look for the ring. His Troop G co-workers believed the young trooper had been given a tall tale. But, Tpr. Mann and his wife returned later that day and searched. Lo and behold, a ring was found! Tpr. Mann took it to Troop G to show his co-workers they should have had more faith. He then contacted its owner and returned it as promised.

### 30 years ago ...

*November 1990* — The cover included a graphic of our state with the question, "Earthquake. Are we ready?" Sgt. James F. Keathley accepted the DDCC Officer Of

The Year award for 1990 at the 6th Annual DDCC Reunion and Award Dinner. The Missouri House of Representatives recognized CVE Inspector Jim VanZandt, who had initiated a cocaine seizure at a weigh station on Interstate 35 north of Liberty, MO. It was the second largest stash of cocaine ever seized by the Missouri law enforcement.

### 20 years ago ...

*December 2000* — The centerfold included stories about Governor Mel Carnahan's death, the Patrol's investigation, and the funeral detail. Troop I reported on the search for Garry Dewayne Watson after he killed two men and wounded two others. Watson was in a dispute with the city of Bunker, MO, over a property easement. Law enforcement located Watson, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, on private property approximately four miles south of town.

### 10 years ago ...

*November/December 2010* — Sergeant Joseph G. Schuengel's portrait graced this issue's front cover. Articles celebrated his life, paid tribute, and told of his ultimate sacrifice.

## Sympathy

*Our deepest sympathy goes to the following personnel who have lost a member of their family:*

Comm. Oper. III Julie A. Weston (F) - father  
Clerk Typist II Chloe A. Weston (F) - grandfather  
Cpl. Travis L. Peters (C) - grandfather  
Ret. Crim. Sprv. E. Todd Garrison - father  
Sgt. Scott E. Mertens (Q/DDCC) - father  
Cpl. Paul V.J. Volkmer (I) - grandfather  
Ret. Sgt. Eric K. Volkmer - father-in-law  
Lab. Evid. Tech. I Hannah R. Smith (Q/CLD) - grandmother  
Ret. Traffic Safety Analyst Michelle M. Green - mother  
DE Sprv. J. Candy Ward (E) - grandmother

Tpr. Kindel C. Ward (Q/GD) - wife's grandmother  
Comm. Oper. II Trevor Dunn (C) - grandfather  
Cpl. Jim E. Thuss (A) - mother-in-law  
DE Sprv. Teri L. Dicks (E) - brother  
Ret. Lt. Sean B. Moore - brother  
Cpl. Jeffery D. Maudlin (H) - grandmother  
Cpl. Brad E. Maudlin (H) - grandmother  
Ret. Computer Info. Tech. Spec. II Leland L. Steinkuehler - wife  
Comm. Oper. II Lauren K. Clausen (H) - grandmother  
Lt. Rick C. Fletcher (A) - mother  
Sgt. Jeff G. Noack (Q/AD) - aunt  
Ret. Chief MVI Tom W. Hollis II - father  
Tpr. Mason B. Hollis (Q/GD) - grandfather  
Tpr. Jeffery G. Durbin (B) - grandfather

Asst. Chief Oper. Todd M. Cooper (D) - father-in-law  
Ret. DE Sprv. Ethel M. Caldwell (A) - husband  
CVO Sprv. I Darcy D. Vette (H) - mother  
CJIS Trainer/Auditor IV Shannon Peirce (Q/CJISD) - grandfather  
Ret. Capt. John W. Elliott - nephew  
Cpl. J. Clinton Howell (G) - brother  
CVO Sprv. I Bill G. Cooper (E) - father  
Ret. Chief Telecom. Eng. Neil Hanks - wife  
Tpr. Ron T. Burgett II (D) - father  
Ret. Clerk Typist III Marlene A. Turner - husband  
Bldg. & Grnds. Maint. Sprv. Kyle M. Doll (F) - mother-in-law



# Death

## Peggy A. Purcell



Peggy A. Purcell died Wednesday, August 26, 2020, at her home in Hazelwood, MO. She was born in Fremont, MO. Peggy is predeceased by her parents, her brother, her sister, her ex-husband, and her son. Peggy retired from the Missouri State Highway Patrol after over 16 years of dedicated service as a driver examiner assigned to Troop C. She is survived by four children, 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Memorials may be made in her memory to American Cancer Society. For more information about Peggy, visit the Hutchens Funeral Homes website at <https://hutchensfuneralhomes.com/obituary/peggy-ann-purcell/>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Purcell family.

## Baron D. Lyons



Baron D. Lyons, 66, of Saint Louis, MO, died Friday, August 28, 2020. Baron graduated from William Beau-

mont High School in 1972. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, MO, in 1976. He was appointed to the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a member of the 46th Recruit Class in 1977. Baron was assigned to Troop C and the Gaming Division (GHQ) during his career. He retired as a trooper in 2007, after almost 30 years of dedicated service to the people of Missouri. Baron is survived by his lifelong soulmate, Sandra Le, four children, other extended family members, and friends. For more information about Baron, visit <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/stltoday/name/baron-d-lyons-obituary?n=baron-d-lyons&pid=196753126>. The Patrol extends its sincerest condolences to the Lyons family.

## Dorothy A. Kliethermes



Dorothy A. Kliethermes, 85, of Westphalia, died Sunday, August 30, 2020, at St. Mary's Hospital. She was a 1953 graduate of Linn High School. She was united in marriage on January 7, 1956, in Linn, to Jerome "Jerry" Kliethermes who preceded her in death on September 13, 2011. Dorothy worked for the Highway Patrol in the Criminal Records Division (now the Criminal Justice Information Services Division). She retired in 1997, after 33 1/2 years of dedicated service as an AFIS entry operator. Survivors include four children, nine grandchildren,

nine great-grandchildren, and three siblings. The family suggests memorials be made to the American Heart Association or to the American Cancer Society. For more information about Dorothy, visit the Dulle-Trimble Funeral Home website at <https://www.dulletrimble.com/obituaries/Dorothy-Alma-Kliethermes?obId=18148129>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Kliethermes family.

## Paul J. (PJ) Mertens



Paul J. (PJ) Mertens, 81, of Rolla, MO, died Tuesday, September 15, 2020. In 1966, P.J. was appointed to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. It was there that he found his calling as a criminal investigator. He had the opportunity to work many high-profile cases. He was recognized as honest, dedicated, intuitive, and creative, and credited as one of the best investigators around. He retired as a sergeant from Troop I, Rolla, after 32 years of service. In addition to his parents, P.J. was preceded in death by one son, two brothers, and two sisters. He will be deeply missed by his surviving family, which includes his wife of 59 years, Linda Mertens, of Rolla; three children, 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one brother, and one sister. Memorial contributions are suggested to the MASTERS (Missouri Association of State Troopers

*Continued on the next page.*

# Death

## – Mertens

*Continued from page 21.*

Emergency Relief Society). For more information about P.J., please visit the Null & Son Funeral Home website at <https://www.nullandsonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Paul-Joseph-Mertens?obId=18377411>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Mertens family.

## Morris H. Poe Jr.



Morris H. Poe Jr., 72, of Springfield, MO, died suddenly on October 7, 2020. Junior was a 1966 graduate of Wheaton High School. He attended Crowder Community College in Neosho, MO. Junior served as a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol from 1969-1999, when he retired as a sergeant. During his years of service, he was assigned to Jefferson City, Eldon, Mt. Vernon, Fayette, and Montgomery City, MO. He was an original member of Division of Drug and Crime Control and worked as a narcotics investigator, served as coordinator of the Lake Area Narcotic Enforcement Group Task Force, and was the state membership chairman of the Missouri Narcotic Officers Association. He is survived by four children and six grandchildren. The family requests memorials be sent to Brain Injury Association of America, 3057 Nutley Street #805, Fairfax, Virginia 22031-1931. For more information about Junior, please visit the Houser-Millard Funeral Directors website at

[www.millardfamilychapels.com](http://www.millardfamilychapels.com). The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Poe family.

## Franklin E. Stephens



Franklin E. Stephens, 85 of Jefferson City, died Saturday, October 17, 2020, at his residence surrounded by his family. On July 3, 1954, he was united in marriage to Louise Tharp, who preceded him in death in 1998. In 1964, he obtained his pilot license and in 1967, joined the Missouri State Highway Patrol as a trooper and backup pilot. He had a passion for flying and enjoyed that professional opportunity with the Highway Patrol. He worked with Troop B, Macon, MO, and was transferred to Jefferson City in 1974, to serve as a pilot. He earned the rank of corporal in 1976 and sergeant in 1978 while assigned to General Headquarters. Frank was one of the first pilots to transfer critically ill individuals to hospitals across Missouri prior to the Life Flight service being established. He later became assistant director of the Criminal Records Division. He retired as a lieutenant in 1992. In 2000, he met and married Judy Thompson in Jefferson City. She survives at the home. Additional survivors include one son, a daughter-in-law, a stepson, three grandsons, a granddaughter, a step-granddaughter, a great-granddaughter, two step-great-grandsons, and other relatives and friends. The family suggested any memorials be sent to the

Fair Haven Children's Home, 3132 N. Fairhaven Loop, Stafford, MO 65757. To learn more about Frank, visit the Houser-Millard Funeral Directors website at [www.millardfamilychapels.com](http://www.millardfamilychapels.com). The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Stephens family.

## Margaret A. Wild



Margaret A. (Mickey) Wild, 72, died October 18, 2020. Mickey graduated from Missouri State Teachers College (Kirkville, MO) in 1971, and taught school for a year before joining the U.S. Army. She served in Weinheim, Germany. After meeting her four-year commitment, she returned to Missouri and applied to the Patrol. Mickey worked as a commercial vehicle enforcement inspector from 1978 until 1985, when she and her husband moved to Virginia. After his death, Mickey returned to Missouri and to the Highway Patrol. She was accepted into the first telecommunicator class. Mickey retired January 1, 2010, after 22 years of dedicated service. (She also retired from the U.S. Army Reserves as a sergeant first class with the 35th Engineer Brigade after 22 years of service.) Mickey is survived by her sister and several other family members. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and a sister. The family will be sharing photos from her Army and Patrol service on Mickey's Facebook page: Margaret "Mickey" Ann Wild.



# Death

## – Wild

*Continued from page 22.*

They will plan an outdoor celebration of life and a military honoring service next spring when the weather permits. The notice will be posted on her Facebook page. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Wild family.

## Sandra N. Stone



Sandra N. “Sandy” Stone, 68, of Jefferson City, died Friday, October 23, 2020, in SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital, Jefferson City. Sandy was a 1970 graduate of Belle High School. She was employed on March 17, 1986, at the Missouri Highway Patrol General Headquarters, Jefferson City, as an evidence control clerk in the Crime Laboratory Division. She later became a fiscal and budgetary analyst in that same division. On June 1, 2012, she retired after 26 years of dedicated service. Sandra was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by three children, two grandchildren, a sister, and other relatives and friends. The family suggests memorials contributions be made to the American Heart Association in care of the Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home, P.O. Box 250, Vienna, Missouri 65582. To learn more about Sandy, visit the Birmingham-Martin Funeral Home website at <https://www.birmingham-martinfuneralhomes.com/obituary/sandra-stone>. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Stone family.

## Erik L. Hurst



Erik L. Hurst died October 15, 2020. He was born December 2, 1969, and grew up in Chillicothe, MO. Erik married his wife of 23 years, Theresa, on May 10, 1997. In 2000, the couple moved to Lawson, MO, where they raised their growing family.

For the past 27 years, he provided for his family by serving as a member of the Missouri State Highway Patrol. He was appointed to the Patrol as a member of the 66th Recruit Class. After graduating from the Patrol’s Law Enforcement Academy, he was assigned to Troop A, Zone 5, Ray and Carroll counties. He was promoted to corporal in 2000, and designated assistant zone supervisor of Zone 4, Clay County. In August 2009, Erik was promoted to sergeant and designated zone supervisor of Zone 3, Clay County.

Erik, always a mover and a shaker, started and (sometimes) finished many projects over the years spending time building, repairing, and turning deals on cars, tractors, and whatever caught his eye. Working with his hands was only one of his multiple skills. When he wasn’t changing the oil or dropping trees for firewood, Erik was supporting his kids in whatever way he could: showing up to sports and recitals, always lending a supportive hand to proofread school work, or just giving advice. More than a trooper, a jack-of-all trades, or even a father and husband, Erik found his identity as a child of God and led his family through his faith. He lived his life to serve others and serve

the Lord, and was an example to his family and all who knew him of what it means to live sacrificially for the Lord. He returned home to the Father on the morning of October 15, 2020, and will live forever in glory!

Erik is survived in death by his wife, Theresa; daughters, Allison, Hannah, Elaina, and Elizabeth; a son, Nicholas; his mother and stepfather, Judith and Wayne Siefert; his father, Warren Hurst; sister, Tera Jones; and Uncle John Elliott, as well as other, extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, Carol Elliott; grandmother, Betty Elliot; grandfather, Stanley Hurst; and Uncle Gary Hurst.

A funeral service took place Monday, October 19, 2020, at Lawson Baptist Church and was followed by a graveside service at Lawson Cemetery, Lawson, MO. The family suggested memorial contributions be made to the Lawson Baptist Church Building Fund. The Patrol family extends its sincerest condolences to the Hurst family.

## Thank You

I would like to thank the Patrol family for the kind words, condolences, and cards we received regarding the passing of my mother-in-law, Toni Prine. Our family truly appreciated the outpouring of support.

*Cpl. Jim E. Thuss (A) and family*



*To Our Patrol Family,*

On behalf of the Moore family, Teri and I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation for the many cards and letters from our Patrol family offering comfort and condolences on the loss of our brother, Derland. We thank each of you for your kind thoughts and prayers of peace and comfort during this difficult time.

*Sincerely,*

*Ret. Lt. Sean B. Moore*

*DE Sprv. Teri L. Dicks (E)*

Recruiting: 1-800-796-7000 • Email: [mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov](mailto:mshppied@mshp.dps.mo.gov) • Home Page: <http://www.statepatrol.dps.mo.gov>  [www.facebook.com/motrooper](http://www.facebook.com/motrooper)

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# Wedding Bells Ring With Spirit Of Giving

*By Exec. Dir. Sarah Weadon, The MASTERS*

Undoubtedly 2020 has brought many emotions to brides and grooms across the country as COVID-19 has forced postponements, scaled-down guest lists, and social distancing at occasions where distancing is the farthest thing from anyone's mind. However, one couple began their married journey focusing on others rather than themselves. Nothing could extinguish their love of charity and spirit of giving on their wedding day.

Trooper Easton R. Corcoran (F) and Ms. Brittney Marshall were married Friday, August 7, 2020. If you searched the wedding registries hoping to find the perfect gift for the couple, you were unable to find their names there. Rather than following the normal tradition of creating a registry, Easton and Brittney asked would-be gift givers to donate to charity. When asked what led them to their decision Easton said, "When we were planning our wedding, we decided we already possessed most of the things we needed, and gifts would simply be things of excess for us. Brittney and I both like the idea of raising support for the things we care about. Brittney chose to contact Granny's House, an organization out of Columbia

which provides educational experiences to youth living in government housing for a list of items they could have donated, and I decided I would like to raise funds for the MASTERS."

Brittney has been a volunteer at Granny's House for two years. Easton describes Brittney is an amazing person with a heart of gold, and someone who has always had a passion for charity.

"I have been fortunate to grow up in a law enforcement household," he said. (His father has had a 20+ year career in law enforcement with the Greene County Sheriff's Office.) During that time, Easton recalls two deputies from his father's agency were killed while on duty: Gary D. McCormack, EOW Oct. 6, 2007, and Aaron Roberts, EOW Sept. 7, 2018. "Those events had an impact on my life. Having seen the firsthand impact of the loss of a first responder in the line of duty, I can't imagine a greater cause to donate to," said Tpr. Corcoran.

Brittney and Easton both attended Republic High School in Republic, MO, where they met. They started dating in

high school and have dated for the past six years. Brittney went to Mizzou for her undergraduate degree with a major in biology, and she began medical school at Mizzou last year. The couple spent most of those six years seeing each other on weekends as Easton attended college in St. Louis, then Springfield. Once Easton began training as a recruit at the Missouri State Highway Patrol Academy, they appreciated finally being in the same vicinity.

Members of the MASTERS are grateful of the Corcorans' generous choice. We receive donations for varying reasons, but this is the first time we have received donations in honor of a marriage where the couple chose our charity in lieu of wedding gifts. Our mission is the same today as it was in 1979: To assist the families of members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol who have fallen in the line of duty. Through their spirit of giving, Easton and Brittney truly exemplify a Patrol family helping Patrol families.

Congratulations Trooper and Mrs. Easton Corcoran. May you be blessed with a lifetime of happiness!